

Analysis of Crash Data for Montana 15-16 year Olds

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**From data provided by Montana Department of Transportation of crashes from
January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2003**

- 1a. There were 19 fatalities of 15-16 year olds from single-vehicle crashes and 15 fatalities from crashes with two or more vehicles.
- 1b. There were 272 incapacitating injuries from 6216 total crashes involving 15-16 year olds.
2. The two months of July and August accounted for 53% of the fatalities, but only 17% of the total crashes.
3. Wet, ice and loose gravel road conditions accounted for 42% of the single-vehicle fatalities.
- 4a. Fifty-three percent of the single-vehicle fatalities occurred on County Roads.
- 4b. Sixty percent of multiple-vehicle fatalities occurred on State Highways.
- 5a. Sixty-seven percent of the single-vehicle fatalities occurred at curves and/or grades (although not listed, it is suspected that the grades were downgrades).
- 5b. Twenty-two percent of all non-fatal crashes occurred at curves and/or grades.
- 6a. In 58% of the single-vehicle fatalities "Speed too fast" was cited as a driver contributing circumstance. Inattentive driving was cited in 32% of the single-vehicle fatalities.
- 6b. "Speed too fast" and/or "Inattentive driving" was a contributing circumstance in 82% of all 15-16 year old fatalities.
7. The major environmental contributing factor was a curve in the roadway.
8. The major road surface contributing factor was contributed by icy/slushy conditions.
- 9a. Pickup trucks and SUVs represented 47% of the vehicle body style that resulted in single vehicle fatalities.
- 9b. Pickup trucks and SUVs represented 62% of the vehicle body style in all crashes.
- 10a. Vehicle overturns was the first harmful event for 74% of the single-vehicle fatalities.

10b. Vehicle overturns was the first harmful event for 38% of the single-vehicle non-fatalities.

11. Males are slightly more represented in all crashes than females.

12a. Fifteen year olds were involved in 68% of single-vehicle fatalities.

12b. Sixteen year olds were involved in 59% of non-fatal single-vehicle crashes.

12c. Sixteen year olds were involved in 60% of fatal multi-vehicle crashes.

12d. Sixteen year olds were involved in 63% of non-fatal multi-vehicle crashes.

13a. The driver was not licensed in 42% of single-vehicle fatalities.

13b. The driver was licensed in 78% of multi-vehicle fatalities.

14a. The driver/occupant did not use safety belts in 87% of the single-vehicle fatalities.

14b. The driver/occupant did not use safety belts in 59% of the multi-vehicle fatalities.

14c. The driver/occupant used lap and shoulder belts in 64% of the non-fatal crashes.

15. The air bag was deployed in 11% of all crashes.

16a. The driver/occupant was ejected or partially ejected in 61% of the single-vehicle fatalities.

16b. The driver/occupant was not ejected in 97% of the non-fatal crashes.

17. Incapacitating injuries occurred in 14% of all crashes.

18a. The driver was killed in 43% of the single-vehicle fatalities.

18b. The passenger was killed in 57% of the single-vehicle fatalities.

18c. The driver was killed in 78% of the multi-vehicle fatalities.